

Department of Energy (DOE) Fire Safety Committee

Minutes of the June 11, 2002 meeting

Written by: Jim Bisker, Chairman

The meeting was held at the Pollard Auditorium in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in conjunction with the Year 2002 DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop.

Year 2003 DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop

Pantex has volunteered to host the 2003 Fire Safety Workshop in Amarillo, Texas with April being the preferred month to hold the event. A discussion ensued concerning the potential of holding the DOE Workshop in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Annual Meeting (Spring), which will be held in Dallas. The reason behind such a move would be to provide the DOE fire protection community the opportunity to attend both events, and capitalize on NFPA training sessions, vendor displays and voting privileges on Standards that affect the DOE. In the past (Denver-2000) we conducted a workshop one week before the NFPA event, which required an approximate two-week stay for persons attending both events. Under this new plan, DOE members could meet either during or post NFPA proceedings since the NFPA ends their meeting on a Thursday.

One committee member has held discussions with the NFPA on the subject and said that they are very receptive to the idea since the DOE is the largest National employer of fire protection engineers. The downside to all of this is that DOE fire department personnel may not attend such an event since it usually is viewed as engineering oriented. The committee chairman was tasked to bring the issue to the attention of DOE management (EH) for a decision on either pursuing a combined workshop or going with the Pantex event. EH decided that Pantex should host next year's event and that discussions on this possibility be initiated with the appropriate NFPA managers.

NFPA 1710 Implementation

The Committee Chairman identified that at the fire chiefs meeting, an issue was brought up concerning implementation of the new NFPA Standard 1710. It was recommended that EH issuing new guidance on NFPA 1710, calling for its incorporation into the Baseline Needs Assessment (BNA) document. The DOE Authority Having Jurisdiction should approve any equivalencies determined in the BNA.

Discussion on the final report from the DOE Commission on Fire Safety and Preparedness

It was identified that the DOE Commission on Fire Safety and Preparedness has issued a final report with copies of the report distributed to meeting attendees. The committee chairman reviewed the second recommendation, which calls for management systems at all DOE sites to manifest a forceful and measurable commitment to fire safety. The recommendation further identified the implementation of effective performance measures, such as those developed by the Firesafety Committee. Copies of the Committee generated performance measures were also distributed. The Chairman wanted to gain an updated sense of acceptance on the validity of collecting subjective information from reporting elements as well as to add his perspective in collecting DOE data based on his work with the Annual Fire Protection Summary. Much discussion ensued on the topic and it was concluded that the Committee generated document could not generate a successful measure of performance in its present state. No further action was taken on the issue.

Discussion on ORPS Revisions

One Committee member identified that ORPS is in the process of evaluating fire event reporting categories and it will be likely that revisions to the 10-minute minimum will take place.

Discussion on SRS Halon Bank Issues

One Committee member identified that the SRS Halon bank will be undertaking a detailed accounting of site balances, and will be requesting from such the maximum balance anticipated for replenishment. All excess will then be transferred to the Department of Defense per Executive Order 13148 of April 21,2000.

For additional information on these minutes or the DOE Fire Safety Committee, please contact Jim Bisker on (301) 903-654 (jim.bisker@eh.doe.gov).